



Tuesday, June 29, 2004

CALENDAR

Today

9:30 a.m.

EHS 604
Hazardous Waste
Bldg. 51-201

Noon

Computer Sciences
How to Give a Presentation
Juan Meza
Perseverance Hall

EETD

Fate and Exposure Modeling of Environmental Contaminants
Matthew MacLeod
Bldg. 90-3148

Tomorrow

10 a.m.

EHS 23
Safety for Shop Supervisors
Bldg. 51-201

Noon

Summer Lecture Series
Blasting Rocks and Blasting Cars: Applied Engineering for Industry
Deb Hopkins
Bldg. 50 Auditorium

12:15 p.m.

Employee Activities Assoc.
Yoga Class
Chris Hoskins
Bldg. 70-191

3 p.m.

ALS/CXRO
3D Structure of Gold Nanoparticles
Matthew Marcus
Bldg. 6-2202

EHS 730

Medical/Biohazard Waste
Bldg. 51-201

CAFETERIA

Morning Additions: Ham, Egg, & Swiss Cheese Croissant

Market Carvery: Roast Turkey with Stuffing, Gravy & Vegetable

The Fresh Grille: Grilled Reuben Quesadilla

Menutainment: Fiesta Taco Salad

Full Meal Deal: Texas BBQ Burger, Fries, Side Salad, Coke & Pie

NOTE: Due to a broken ice

SPECIAL EVENTS

Deb Hopkins To Speak At Next Summer Lecture



Hopkins

Deb Hopkins, the head of the Industrial Energy Partnerships program in the Engineering Division, presents the next Summer Lecture

tomorrow at noon in the Building 50 Auditorium. During her talk, "Blasting Rocks and Blasting Cars: Applied Engineering for Industry," Hopkins will discuss her work with industries like automobile, mining, and paper to improve their evaluation and measuring techniques. The next lecture, by physical bioscientist **Carolyn Larabell**, takes place Wednesday, July 7, same time and location.

PEOPLE

Campbell Receives Pinole 'Citizen' Award



Campbell

Tamera Campbell, with the Lab's Information Technologies and Services Division, as been named "Citizen of the

year" by the city of Pinole. A seven-year resident of the town, Campbell has been involved in a variety of activities, including sports, education, and politics. She helped found Pinole CARE, an organization that seeks to improve parent and community participation in the town's education system, is a member of the Pinole Valley High School Boosters Club, and helped pass ballot measures that provide funds for

IN THE NEWS



Restoring Rare Audio Recordings With Physics Gets NPR Treatment

National Public Radio is the latest media outlet to cover the popular story about **Carl Haber** and **Vitaliy Fadeyev**, Berkeley Lab particle physicists who have found a way to play fragile historic audio recordings on



Fadeyev, top, and Haber

acetate and wax cylinders without damaging them. Photographic imaging technology is used to map the grooves on the cylinders and records. A computer program reads the data and plays the music — without ever touching the record. An audio clip of this report is available [here](#) (scroll down to eighth story on page).

ContraCostaTimes.com

Program Tackles College Admissions Diversity

By Betsy Mason

A mathematician, who wants others to have the same opportunities he had, has created a computer program that he hopes will be a low-cost answer to a problem presented by a Supreme Court ruling on college admissions. Last year's ruling that college admissions offices can consider diversity as long as race is not treated as a deciding factor left

machine, the cafeteria is currently unable to provide ice for group parties. What is available is only for catered events and cafeteria use.

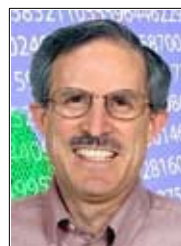
B'fast: 6:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Lunch: 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

[Full menu](#)

the rebuilding of the town's elementary and middle schools. She received her award at a special dinner last Thursday.

Heidelberg Talk Tells How to 'Fool the Masses'



Bailey

David Bailey, chief technologist for Computational Research and NERSC Center divisions, delivered a tongue-in-cheek yet serious presentation in Heidelberg, Germany last Friday,

reminding attendees at the 2004 International Supercomputer Conference that hype and exaggeration still loom large in the field. As an invited speaker, Bailey drew one of the largest and most enthusiastic audiences of the conference to his talk on "12 Ways to Fool the Masses." His talk during the "Future Trends" session was an update of one of his best-known papers. [Full story](#).

some fearing that minority enrollment might drop if schools don't have the staff, time or money to take the "holistic" approach the court ordered. Juan Gilbert, an African-American, presented an idea for a solution at the recent Conference for African-American Researchers in the Mathematical Sciences, held at Berkeley Lab last week. [Full story](#) (registration required).

BUDGET NEWS

House Passes Energy, Water Appropriations



Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham released the following statement following the passage of the 2005 Energy and Water Development

Appropriations Bill by the House of Representatives: "While we are early in the budget process, we will continue to work with the House and Senate to ensure that the Department's national security, environmental cleanup and other important projects receive the funding necessary to continue forward." Go [here](#) to read more about this legislation.

WEATHER

Morning fog, then sunny.
Highs: upper 60s (20° C).



[Extended Forecast](#)

SECURITY CONDITION

SECON level 3

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Friday, Jul 02, 2004

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Posted on Sat, Jun. 26, 2004

Computer program tackles diversity in college admissions

By Betsy Mason
CONTRA COSTA TIMES

BERKELEY - A mathematician, who wants others to have the same opportunities he had, has created a computer program that he hopes will be a low-cost answer to a problem presented by a Supreme Court ruling on college admissions.

Although generally viewed as an endorsement of affirmative action, last year's Supreme Court ruling that college admissions offices can consider diversity as long as race is not treated as a deciding factor left some fearing that minority enrollment might drop if schools don't have the staff, time or money to take the "holistic" approach the court ordered.

The University of Michigan spent \$1.8 million implementing a new admissions system in order to comply with the court's decision. They hired five more full-time admissions counselors and 16 seasonal application readers so that each of the approximately 20,000 applications the school receives would get at least two thorough reviews.

While that price tag might not faze the University of Michigan, which has one of the largest endowments in the country, schools without such deep pockets might wonder if they can afford such detailed reviews.

"Had it not been for affirmative action, I don't think I would have had the education opportunities I did," said Juan Gilbert, an African-American mathematician who attended Auburn University in Alabama..

"Diversity could be lost because not everyone has the bank account that the University of Michigan does. So, I felt that I had to do something."



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Gilbert, who presented his findings this week in Berkeley, tackled the problem by clustering algorithms -- step-by-step calculations that group similar items together. He developed a computer program that uses these algorithms to compare all aspects of an application -- such as GPA, hometown and race -- to every other application and gathers similar applications into groups.

The idea is that applications in any given cluster are more similar to each other than to the rest of the applicant pool. Because race is just one of the attributes considered, clusters are likely to include several races, just as they will have a range of SAT scores and a mix of genders.

"Diversity isn't necessarily race alone," Gilbert said. "It's everything -- it's the whole application. That's how I'm defining it."

Schools can then accept an equal number of applicants from each cluster. How these choices are made would be up to the individual school's admission officers, and this could be tricky.

Random selection would be the simplest approach, but schools are likely to want to use criteria such as essay answers or community service or other intangibles that can't be quantified. As long as race isn't the deciding factor at this point, however, the process should adhere to the Supreme Court's ruling and still create a diverse class, Gilbert said.

"If the University of Michigan had been using this (program) when they were sued, they could have sat the young lady (who filed suit) down, pulled up her cluster and explained why other members of that cluster were accepted ahead of her," he said.

Gilbert presented his ideas Wednesday at the 10th annual Conference for African-American Researchers in the Mathematical Sciences, held at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and co-sponsored by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley.

"I think it's a very clever idea," said William Massey, a mathematician at Princeton University and one of the founding organizers of the conference.

"I've done admissions before, and it's so subjective," said mathematician Arlie Petters of Duke University. "It's great to have these tools to serve as quantitative means to guide you as you make human judgments."

In its basic form, Gilbert's program considers each bit of an application's information equally, but it allows the user to put more weight on any particular attribute or attributes. While this would give admissions offices more flexibility and control, it also leaves the door open for some abuse.

"I recommend giving everything equal weight," Gilbert said. "If you didn't

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want it considered, you wouldn't put it on your application."

Auburn University has applied for a patent for Gilbert's software, called Applications Quest, which is already generating a fair amount of interest in the business world. Employers could use the program to screen job applicants by putting a fake application for the ideal candidate into the mix, and then interviewing people who end up in the same cluster with the ideal.

But Gilbert's focus is maintaining diversity on college campuses. "I think diversity is more important than most people realize."



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